

**Department of History,
University of Manitoba**
Fall 2016
Hist. 1350 (A01)

**INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF
WESTERN CIVILIZATION, TO 1500**

Instructor: Dr. Paul Jenkins

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Time: Mon, Wed, Fri.: 8:30-9:20

Location: 235 Isbister

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-1:00,
or by appointment.

Course Description: This course provides a broad introduction to a dynamic and foundational period in the history of the West, from its roots in North Africa and the Middle East to the striking rise and expansion of Europe during the Renaissance. This is a story shaped by deep and on-going interactions and cultural exchanges between the various peoples and civilizations of these regions. You will become acquainted with not only the uniqueness and importance of Western Civilization, but also the crucial role non-western influences played in determining its shape and character. This course provides a foundation for further study in Ancient, Medieval, and Early Modern history. Through the combination of lectures, readings, discussions, and written assignments you will also develop valuable critical, analytical, and writing skills.

Readings: The assigned readings are an essential part of this course. They are intended to complement the lectures and written assignments, as well as help you develop critical reading skills. It should be noted, however, that they serve as an additional source of information and will often provide different interpretations of our subject than those provided in the lectures. You skip readings (and lectures) at your peril. On examinations you are responsible for all the material covered in the readings and lectures. The required books are available in the University Book Store.

Books:

John McKay, Bennett Hill, John Buckler, Clare Crowston, Marry Wiesner-Hanks, *Understanding Western Society: A History 2nd edition Vol 1: From Antiquity to Enlightenment*. (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2015).

Jane Smiley, *The Sagas of Icelanders* (Penguin Classics, 2001).

Recommended:

Gerald Graff & Cathy Berkenstein, *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*, 3rd edition (New York, 2014).

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation and Class Assignments, (20%)

This portion of your grade is a cumulative one made by your participation in informal class discussions, as well as a number of short and similarly informal assignments designed to help you master course material, while also developing valuable analytical and writing skills. They will be periodically assigned throughout the semester.

Library & Footnote Assignment, (10%), due in class Wednesday October 5

This assignment is comprised of two parts: (a) and (b).

- (a)** Scholarly journals are a major resource used by historians. Journal articles are a type of “secondary source” that often contain the latest findings, interpretive arguments, and theses advanced by historians. Like “primary sources” there is a knack to finding those relevant to your research, and reading them effectively. Find three recent articles (published in the last 5 years) from a scholarly journal on any topic dealt with in this course. All three articles must be on the same topic. Compile these articles into a bibliography in the Chicago Style. Format matters. Improper format will be penalized.

See http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html for guidance.

You can find articles through the “Databases A-Z” link, under the “Find” tab on the University Library’s main page. If you have any problems do not hesitate to ask for help from the library staff, a classmate, or myself.

(b)

Next, read Anthony Grafton’s “Footnote: The Origin of a Species,” which will be distributed by me. Then in 500-700 words clearly, yet concisely, explain what footnotes are; how they developed and the purpose they serve; as well as why it is important that they be accurate in both content and form.

Part (b) of this assignment is nowhere near as dry as you think. Even if it is, do yourself a favour, embrace your inner nerd, and approach it with an open mind.

Icelandic Sagas Essay (1,500 words), (20%), due in class Friday November 4

Details will be provided in class. We will only be reading “Egil’s Saga” and “The Vinland Sagas”.

Short Research Essay (1,500 words), (20%), due in class Friday **December 2**

This assignment can be on any topic covered in this course. Your essay must draw on both primary and secondary sources and present a clear, well-organized, and persuasive analysis of the topic. All sources must be cited properly using footnotes or endnotes and listed in a formal bibliography. Your essay will be evaluated on the strength of its research, analysis, and composition. Spelling, grammar, cogency and style will all be taken into consideration. So too, will the format of your citations and bibliography. While your choice of topic is open, I must approve it.

Final Examination held during University Exam Period, (30%), **TBA**.

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the last date for Voluntary Withdrawal which is **November 18**.

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's "W" requirement, **students must complete all essay assignments and receive a passing grade in order to pass this course.**

If you wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Grade Scale:

A+	85-100%, Outstanding	C+	65-69%, Satisfactory
A	80-84%, Excellent	C	60-64%, Adequate
B+	75-79%, Very Good	D	50-59%, Marginal
B	70-74%, Good	F	49% or below, Failing

A note on plagiarism: The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

A note on late assignments: Students are responsible for completing assignments on time. Extensions will only be granted 48 hours prior to the due date, except in exceptional circumstances. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends. No allowance will be given for technical difficulties. Back up your work often.

A note on technology: Technology can be a powerful tool, but it can also be distracting. Studies show that the use of laptop computers to take notes in class actually negatively impacts the success for users and has an even more detrimental effect on nearby peers. I therefore actively discourage use of laptops in my class, though they are not banned. If you do choose to make use of one I ask that you sit towards the back of the class, or tilt your screen away from the view of your classmates. Obviously, this is not license to surf the Internet or chat with your friends on social media. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue please come and speak with me. Also, cell phones, iPods, and other such personal devices must be turned off or silenced and **stowed** for the duration of the class.

Student resources:

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC):

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link:

<http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Working Lecture Topics and Reading Schedule

Introduction: Why Western Civ. Still Matters

1 - Big History, Deep History, the Neolithic Revolution, and the Rise of Civilization

Readings: WS, Ch. 1

Begin reading the selection from *The Sagas of Icelanders*

2 - Pagan Religion & The Children of Israel: A New View of God and the Individual

Readings: WS, Ch. 2.

The Sagas of Icelanders

3 - Greek Thought and Politics: City States and Democracy, Myth and History, Reason and Philosophy.

Readings: WS, Ch. 3.

The Sagas of Icelanders.

4 - The Hellenistic Age

Readings: WS, Ch. 4.

The Sagas of Icelanders.

5 - The Rise of Rome

Readings: WS, Ch. 5.

The Sagas of Icelanders.

6 - Christianity and Empire

Readings: WS, Ch. 6.

The Sagas of Icelanders.

7 - Christianity and the Late Antique World

Readings: WS, Ch. 7.

The Sagas of Icelanders.

8 - Heirs of Rome: Byzantium, Islam, and Latin Europe

Readings: WS, Ch. 8.

The Sagas of Icelanders.

9 - State, Church, and the Medieval Order

Readings: WS, Ch. 9.

10 - Life in the Middle Ages

Readings: WS, Ch. 10.

11 - Vitality and Renewal in the Middle Ages

Readings: WS, Ch. 11.

12 - The Later Middle Ages

Readings: WS, Ch. 12.

13 – The Renaissance

Readings: WS, Ch. 13.